Wednesday, February 15, 2012 • 12 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 69 P18 | Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



LOVE IN THE MANGROVES Some 175 newly-wed couples plant mangrove saplings as their expression of love for Mother Nature after a Valentine's Day mass wedding in Barangay San Jose, Sitio Tagbarong, Puerto Princesa, Palawan province, on Tuesday.

Mistrial strategy bared

Accusing senators of bias part of plan—Osmeña

By TJ Burgonio and Christian V. Esguerra

BY ACCUSING certain senators of being biased against him, Chief Justice Renato Corona is setting the stage for his eventual declaration of a "mistrial," Sergio Osmeña III said yesterday.

"I know their strategy. Their strategy is to declare there is a mistrial. There's a pending TRO (temporary restraining order) that the Supreme Court has yet to decide on. That's part of the game. We can handle that," Osmeña told reporters after the ongoing impeachment trial of Corona.

On Monday, he filed a supplementary petition with the high court to stop the trial, claiming that certain

MISTRIAL / A20

SC creating 'safe haven for criminal acts,' says justice • Enrile takes 'full responsibility' for subpoena / A20

'Fake' evidence confirms Corona bank accounts

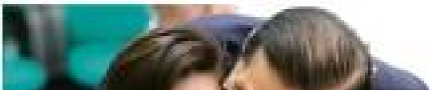
By Cynthia D. Balana and Marlon Ramos

WHILE Chief Justice Renato Corona's accusers cannot guarantee the authenticity of the documents concerning his local and foreign currency deposits, the submission of bank officials prove that the information in the documents is accurate.

Marikina Rep. Romero Quimbo, the prosecution spokesperson, stressed this yesterday in the course of saying that the prosecutors had no intention of misleading the Senate impeachment court when they attached the bank documents to their request for a subpoena.

Quimbo said the prosecution had actually advised the impeachment court that it could not "vouch for the authenticity" of the bank documents that,

'FAKE' / A20



MR. VALENTINE Senate President and impeachment court presiding judge Juan Ponce Enrile is greeted by Sen. Loren Legarda on his 88th birthday before the start of the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Most sought after 'small lady' no-show on Senate CCTV

By Michael Lim Ubac and Cynthia D. Balana

THE PROSECUTION'S "small lady" is apparently so tiny that she can't be seen in the closed-circuit television (CCTV) videos of the Senate.

In a report to Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, a copy of which was obtained by the Inquirer on Monday night, Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Jose Balajadia Jr. said he had reviewed the CCTV videos and found no sign of the woman who, according to Mindoro Oriental Rep. Reynaldo Umali's account, showed up at the Senate on Feb. 2 and handed him an envelope

MOST SOUGHT / A11





BUT WHERE IS SHE? House prosecutor Rep. Reynaldo Umali is caught on the Senate CCTV being interviewed by the media in this still frame that taken at 1:29 p.m. on Feb. 2.

Love in time of quakes, and helping others live

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

LA LIBERTAD, NEGROS ORIENTAL—Police officer Danny Camero and his wife, Elisa, would have wanted to go on a date and take a leisurely walk like they did in the past 13 years on Feb. 14.

Camero, 35, and Elisa, 34, yesterday spent Valentine's Day just being together at the town's multipurpose gymnasium.

Assigned to the police station of Dumanjug town in Cebu province, Camero would make a point to come home to be with his family every Feb. 14.

When he could not come home because of his duties, he would call Elisa to greet her.

Yesterday, Camero asked permission

LOVE / A11

Rescuers pull out from landslide sites / A13

Whitney body home in Jersey; sad fans saving all their love

LOS ANGELES—Whitney Houston's life was a doleful cover of other addiction-riddled pop stars who put their talent and themselves at risk.

Her death has created more heartrending echoes of tragedies past. The painstaking investigation that follows the shocking loss.

Why was Houston found underwater in a Beverly Hills hotel bathtub, beyond resuscitation?

The 48-year-old singer left behind disconsolate family and friends and unfulfilled dreams. Her body was flown Monday by private jet to New Jersey, where she was born and where her funeral is being planned.

Authorities said there were no indi-

WHITNEY / A11

Drugs? Booze? Drowning? Suicide? / A12

Day 17 trial ends early; JPE turns 88

By TJ Burgonio

CHIEF Justice Renato Corona's lawyers yesterday withdrew from a joint examination with the prosecution of the records of his accounts in the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), even as the Senate ordered the presentation of his monthly bank statements there for today's trial.

The trial adjourned early at 4:30 p.m. in deference to Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, who marked his 88th birthday, and the celebration of Valentine's Day.

"Today is Feb. 14, your honor, the natal day of the presiding officer of this court. In addition to that this is Valentine's Day. Maybe you can afford us a chance to spend time with our family? In short, I'm asking for a declaration of a cessation of hostilities," chief defense counsel Serafin Cuevas told the court.

Chief prosecutor Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr. joined the manifestation.

Enrile said to Jose: "Thank you for

DAY 17 / A20

WHAT'S INSIDE

Second FRONTPAGE

Ex-PCGG chief, other execs face graft raps

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has filed graft cases against five former officials of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) for leasing P1.2 million worth of vehicles without public bidding in 2007 and 2009.

Charged before the Sandiganbayan were former PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio and Commissioners Ricardo Abcede, Tereso Javier, Nicasio Conti and Narciso Nario.

The PCGG had leased five vehicles from UCPB Leasing and Finance Corporation in 2007, and six vehicles in 2009.

In its resolution ordering the filing of charges against the former PCGG officials, the Office of the Ombudsman said deviating from competitive public bidding and resorting to alternative modes of procurement is only allowed in extraordinary situations.

There were no extraordinary circumstances to justify the alternative procurement of the vehicles, it said.

"Certainly, the circumstances surrounding the lease of the vehicles in question indubitably show that the complained transaction is outside the ambit of extraordinary situations contemplated by the procurement law and the PCGG charter," it said.

In their defense, the PCGG officials told the Ombudsman that despite recovering P40 billion for the government, they were still being accused of prejudicing it. According to them, the complaint was meant to harass and malign them, and that there was no injury to the government in the transactions.

The Office of the Ombudsman also said that even if the resident auditor found nothing illegal or irregular in the lease, and even if the procurement was covered by the national budget, the lease contracts of the vehicles still violated the procurement law.

It said that even granting, for the sake of argument, that the lease of vehicles was covered by negotiated procurement, the capability of the supplier was in serious doubt. It noted that UCPB Leasing is sequestered by the PCGG.

"This places the technical, legal and financial capability of the leasing company questionable. Thus, assuming that no private party was involved, the government would certainly be prejudiced by their contract," it added. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Palace allays fears on new mining policy

By Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG yesterday assured foreign and local businessmen and other stakeholders in the local mining industry that their concerns would be taken into consideration when the administration finalizes President Aquino's executive order outlining the government's mining policy.

Secretary Edwin Lacierda, Mr. Aquino's spokesperson, said that when the stakeholders were expressing concern about some provisions in a draft EO that had already undergone changes.

The Joint Foreign Chambers and the Philippine Mining Exploration Association Inc. recently expressed apprehension about the proposed new mining policy and urged the administration to consider the concerns of the industry.

"We understand the concerns of the Joint Foreign Chambers. What they had seen was the primary draft. That draft has already undergone changes," Lacierda said at yesterday's press briefing in Malacañang.

"We have a working draft EO right now. The draft that they saw has gone through several changes and there is a working draft," he said.

Lacierda said Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. would call a meeting with the mining stakeholders when the draft is ready.

"So I can assure the JFC that their concerns would be addressed and that the draft that they saw is no longer the draft that they were working on. It has been worked on. It has been improved," Lacierda said.

Big local and foreign business groups had criticized a government plan to raise revenue by imposing new taxes on mining companies and reviewing their contracts, saying that the changes would scare off investors.

The government aims to spend more on infrastructure and social services to boost long-term growth and wants to increase mining taxes and review fiscal incentives for miners to ramp up revenue, Reuters said in a report yesterday.

But the business groups, including the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (CMP), said the proposed changes, in a draft EO awaiting President Aquino's signature, would send the wrong signal to investors.

"Any review of existing contracts will be viewed negatively as it will appear to be an attempt to change the rules in midstream—definitely a disincentive to prospective investors," said Rocky Dimaculangan, CMP vice president for communications.

The group was seeking a consultation with Aquino, he said.

Mining is a potential growth sector for the Philippines, which has mineral reserves estimated at $1 trillion, Reuters further said.

Foreign investors are interested in pursuing ventures, but policy bottlenecks are hampering them, it added.

"There needs to be constancy of policy. The situation where companies are encouraged to invest at one time, only to have them see the rules changed at a later time, should stop," Dimaculangan said in a statement.

The CMP, which represents large-scale miners, issued its statement after the Joint Foreign Chambers had described the draft mining rules as "profoundly disturbing."

With a Reuters report

BI cracks down on alien workers

[illegible]





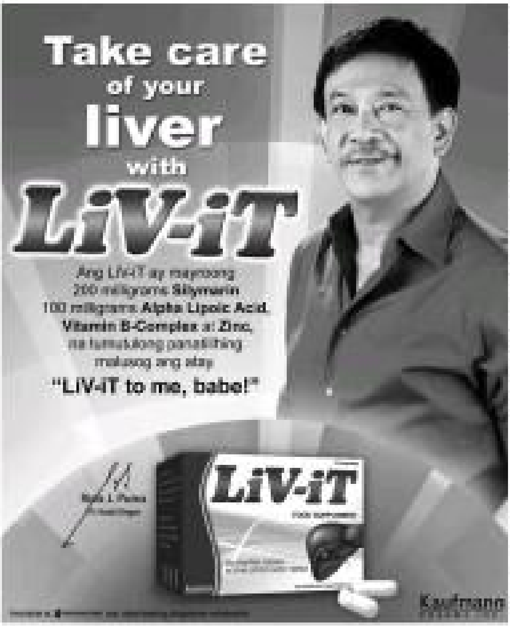




NO IMPEACHABLE SALE

Baguio land sold to SM in '92









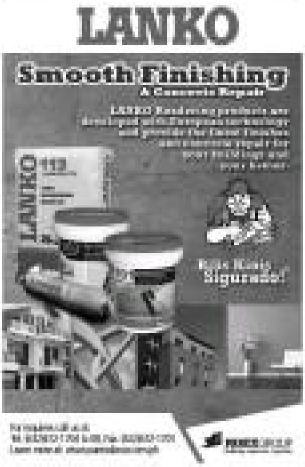


Purely ministerial

PNP's No. 3 moves up

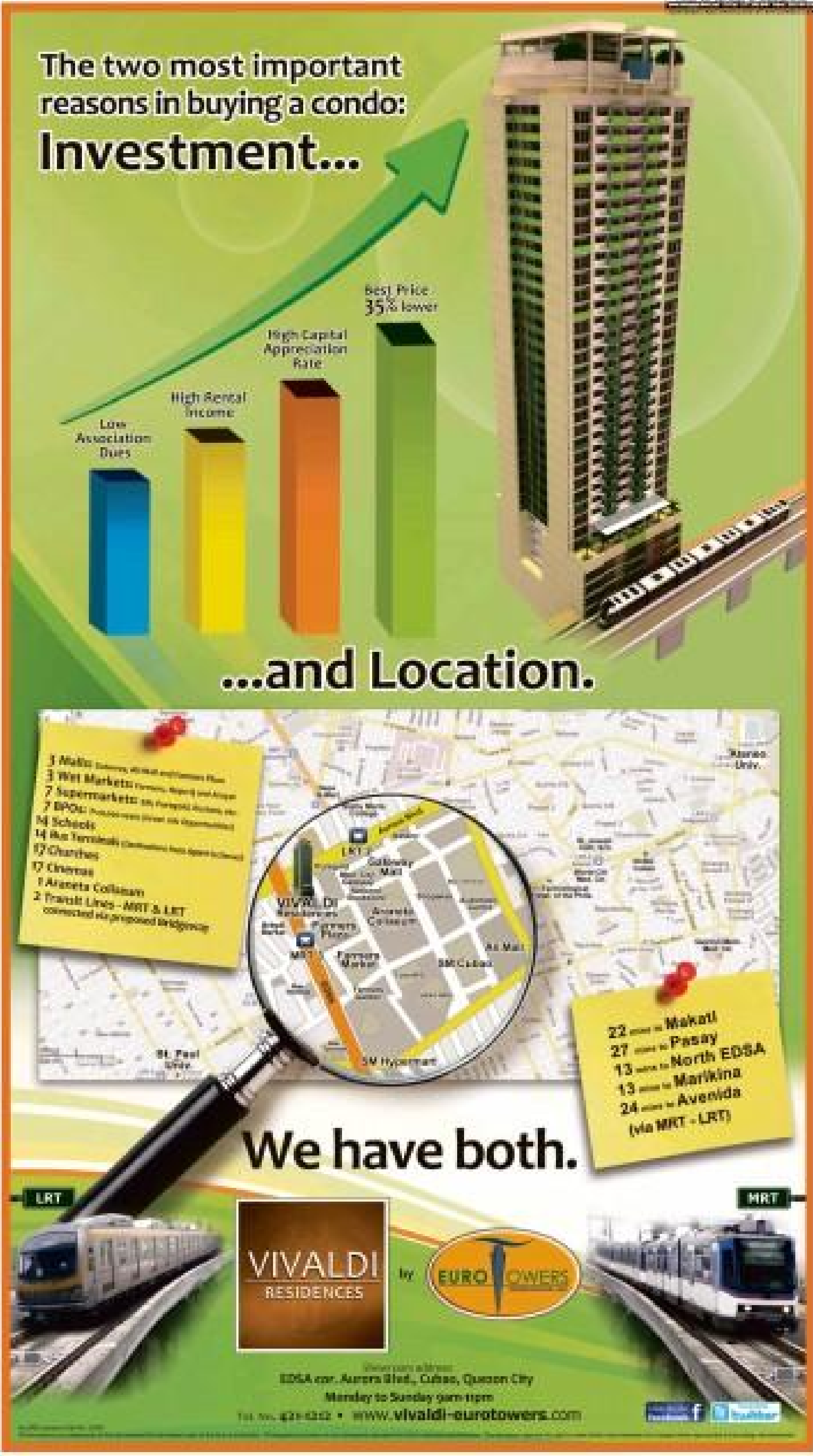








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7 BPOs:
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14 Bus Terminals
17 Churches
17 Cinemas
1 Araneta Coliseum
2 Transit Lines - MRT & LRT
connected via proposed bridgeway
VIVALDI Residences
Araneta Coliseum
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Pinoy doc, wanted in US, now a medical reservist in AFP

Pagasa: New storm brewing off Mindanao

WHO: Leprosy still very much around

Mt. Kanlaon closed to climbers after quake

The Daily Gospel

Comfort women balk at impeaching justice





Half of P63-B infra projects bidded out

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Couple's love gives birth to Angeles

A LOVE STORY for an intangible heirloom? What makes the union of Juan and Teresa Nepomuceno exceptional is that as they strengthened their love for one another and reared 10 children, the couple spread the Roman Catholic faith and helped build Angeles City through their business and social enterprises.

"While the story belongs to their children and grandchildren, this saga belongs, too, to the people of Angeles and to the nation"



Inexorably linked

Lessons of sacrifice

Good fortune



ALEX OGNAYON carved this piece, "Bagaw Couture," from bamboo, a new medium for wood carvers on Asin Road in Baguio City.

Bamboo seen as savior of woodcarving industry

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

THERE WAS no doubt about one of woodcarver Nestor Anabon's favorite things. When Edgardo Manda, head of the Philippine Bamboo Foundation, handed bayog bamboo to woodcarvers in Barangay Asin in Baguio City two months ago, Anabon knew what to carve.

He made a huge replica of a Ginebra San Miguel bilog (round gin bottle), complete with bottle cap and the familiar label, originally made by National Artist Fernando Amorsolo, of Saint Michael spearing the Devil.

It earned Anabon a special prize from another judge, Peter Franks, who judged the 1st Philippine Bamboo Carving Festival last week.

National Artist Benedicto "BenCab" Cabrera, who chaired the judging, said he was very appreciative of the local artists' output. "I was impressed with the workmanship. They did not carve something commercial like ashtrays. Their works are cultural and personal," he said.

Jordan Apaggad, 32, said he was so excited about the competition that he carved from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. for two weeks. His three works were intricate. He was able to create dozens of humans in 43 inches of bamboo.

With "Snake Hunting," he created a spiral showing six hunters in various phases of hunting pythons. His other works are "Deer Hunting" and "Ethnic Weaving."

Winners' circle

To show the intensity of the competition, only one of Apaggad's works made it to the winners' circle.

The grand prize was won by veteran woodcarver Fernando Tabuyan, whose work, "Bagaw and Bengnet Festival," is a bas relief of various festivals in the two provinces.

Manda, BenCab and Apaggad were one in saying that bamboo would save the woodcarving industry.

"Many are leaving [Asin] for La Union and Tagaytay," said BenCab. "This will give them enough curiosity and interest to stay."

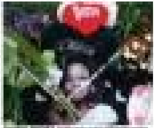
Manda said he sourced the bamboo from Porac, Pampanga. With labor economized, this bamboo variety is especially tough. Its hardness is so much that Apaggad noted that he had to sharpen his carving tools more often while working with the Porac bayog.



ANOTHER intricately designed bamboo figure.

Drugs? Booze? Drowning? Suicide? Science not always conclusive

Whitney body home in Jersey; fans saving all their love



Rescuers pull out from landslide sites

Love in time of quakes, and helping others live





Across the NATION

Floods displace tent city evacuees

NEWSBRIEFS

Rescue at sea

Miners fight

PSBank heist



PALAWAN MIGRANT This cherry tree, said to be not native to Palawan, usually blooms in summer but started to bloom early this year, an indication that, indeed, the climate is changing.

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY —Floods forced the evacuation of evacuees at a tent city here built on what residents said was a flood-prone area.



Quezon mayor accused of protecting loggers points to relatives

Apeco critics have more fun tweaking slogan



TWEAKING A SLOGAN

Kin of slain mayor offer ₱100,000 for gunman

Comelec eyes buying Smartmatic machines

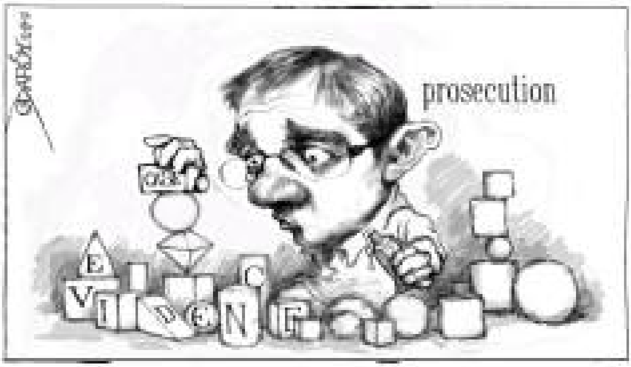
New Davao archbishop named

INQUIRER

OPINION

'Shocking' revelation?

EDITORIAL



Why not now, Mr. Chief Justice?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Lightning strikes

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Obey Supreme Court

Analysis



Amando Doronila

Between law and reality

At Large



Rina Jimenez-David

Love that kills

Looking Back



Ambeth R. Ocampo

Neutered

Pinoy Kasi



Michael L. Tan

Castrati

Religion

Anti-drugs law too harsh; its amendment in order

LETTERS



AFTERMATH of a blast in Taguig on Jan. 25, 2012, after a vintage bomb exploded, killing four people and injuring several others.

Safety precautions in handling vintage bombs

National gov't key to making PH a 'more fun' place

Philippine College of Radiology
64th Annual Convention



"Basics & Advances in Adult Genitourinary Imaging"

Messages











Guest International Faculty







Keynote Speaker



Scientific Program

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Friday, February 17, 2012

Saturday, February 18, 2012

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Philippine Radiation Oncology Society

Philippine Society of Vascular and Interventional Radiology

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Northern & Central Luzon Chapter

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Visayas-Northern Mindanao Chapter

Southern Mindanao Chapter

Philippine Board of Radiology

2012 PCR Annual Convention Committee

SC creating 'safe haven for criminal acts,' says justice

'Valid exception'

'No basis'

Enrile takes 'full responsibility' for subpoena of 'fake' papers

'Deceit in request?'

Prosecutors berated

Bill of Rights

'Duty, my foot!'

Legal comments

Day 17 trial ends early; Senate president turns 88

Monthly bank statements

Not an ordinary court

'Like private prosecutors'

'Mistrial' strategy bared



LOVEFEST

Old hat

Search for truth

Answering charges

Emboldened

'Fake' evidence confirms Corona bank accounts

Most sought after 'small lady' no-show on Senate CCTV



SPORTS

Opening-day winners clash

Barako, B-Meg dispute lead



Coke keeps Powerade; Salud defers player trade

'Tactically disciplined' Azkals overpower Qataris



Pinoy boxers set out to nail Olympic slots



11th SM Bowling Cup stakes cars, cash prizes

Far Eastern, UE dominate UAAP athletics

Luisita plots PAL Seniors showdown with Cangolf



James, Heat whip Bucks; Mavs score

Orcollo repulses Kuwaiti foe



ORCOLLO

Corporate games slated

Azarenka targets 'Golden Slam'

SPORTSWATCH

Tri-Al derby Friday at PCC

MCC tourney set Feb. 18

Julaton unfazed by Argentina bout

IN HUDDLE


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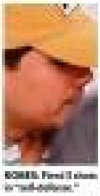
A plus METRO

Raps down to homicide; Daza son-in-law posts bail



DAY 1 OF MMDA MEASURE

Edsa 'blue lane' violators top 1K



VALENTINE'S DAY came with a hard lesson for over a thousand erring motorcycle riders on Edsa: Stick to one.

Early complaints











Driver in hit-and-run arrested



Manila teachers lose P500 monthly benefit

Edsa …



TO SERVE AND PROTECT, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD

Raps down to homicide

Kidnapping case ruined my life—Dennis Roldan

Did you know



Neighbors fed up with noisy addicts aid cop in drug war

By Nathaniel R. Melican

Smart extends help to earthquake-stricken Negros Oriental

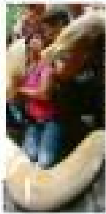


Libreng Tawag center at Guihulngan





Smart volunteers coordinate with LGU



Cuerpo asks court to reverse decision



Coincidences blamed for woman's death

Man dies while working on electric wiring

Love letters of Barrett, Browning go online





A Museum of Broken Relationships

Israel blames Iran for embassy bomb attacks

NEW DELHI—Israel blamed Iran on Monday for bomb attacks on its diplomatic cars in India and Georgia, heightening concerns that the Jewish state was moving closer to striking its archenemy.

Iran denied responsibility for the attacks that appeared to mirror the recent killings of Iranian nuclear scientists that Tehran blamed on Israel.

The blast in New Delhi set a car ablaze and injured four people, including an Israeli Embassy driver and a diplomat's wife; the device in Georgia was discovered and safely defused.

"Iran is behind these attacks and it is the largest terror exporter in the world," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told lawmakers from his Likud Party.

The violence added further tension to one of the globe's most contentious standoffs. Iran has been accused of developing a nuclear weapons program that Israel says threatens the existence of the Jewish state. Tehran says its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only.

Comments by Israeli officials in recent weeks have raised fears Israel might be preparing to strike Iranian nuclear facilities. While Israel says it hopes that international sanctions can curb Iran's nuclear program, leaders pointedly note that "all options are on the table" and have warned that as Iran moves closer to weapons capability, time is running out for action. Fearing an Israeli attack could set off a conflict across the region and send oil prices skyrocketing, US and other Western countries have been pressing Israel to give sanctions more time.

Israeli military analyst Reuven Pedatzur said Monday's action was unlikely to have any bearing on whether Israel attacks Iran, calling it an "isolated incident" with rather low impact.

The attackers in India and Georgia appeared to have used "sticky bombs" attached to cars by magnets, similar to weapons used against Iran's nuclear officials. Netanyahu said Israel had thwarted attacks in recent months in Azerbaijan and Thailand and unspecified other countries.

"In all these cases, the elements behind these attacks were Iran and its protege, Hezbollah," Netanyahu said, referring to Iran's Lebanese proxy. He vowed to "act with a strong hand against international terror."

Israeli media reported that the government blamed Iran based on prior intelligence and that security officials feared this could be the start of a wave of attacks against Israeli targets overseas.

Iranian officials rejected Netanyahu's accusations.

"This accusation is within the Zionist regime's psychological war against Iran," the official Iranian news agency quoted Foreign Ministry spokesperson Ramin Mehmanparast as saying.

"The Zionist regime, due to repeated crimes against humanity, is the main party accused of terrorist activities," he said, according to Irna.

The New Delhi attack took place just after 3 p.m. a few hundred meters from the prime minister's residence, as the diplomat's wife headed to the American Embassy School to pick up her children, said Delhi Police Commissioner B.K. Gupta. AP



INDIVIDUALS believed to be from the Israeli Embassy (left) inspect a car belonging to the Israeli Embassy which was damaged by an explosion in New Delhi, India, on Feb. 13. AP



RIOT police fire tear gas to disperse thousands of anti-government protesters waving Bahraini flags with symbols of resistance drawn on them Monday on the main highway into the capital of Manama, Bahrain. AP

Bahrainis mark uprising anniversary

DUBAI—Bahraini police clashed with protesters on Monday, witnesses said, as the public security chief warned citizens not to heed calls by activists to mark the first anniversary of a Shiite-led uprising.

One year after month-long prodemocracy protests, the Gulf kingdom is at a political impasse, with Shiite protesters back on the streets despite a deadly crackdown by the ruling Sunni dynasty.

Police fired tear gas to disperse thousands of protesters who broke away from an opposition demonstration and tried to head for Manama's former Pearl Square, focal point of last year's protests, witnesses said.

The interior ministry said that the main Shiite opposition group, Al-Wefaq, had been authorized to hold a demonstration but the rally had become "no longer peaceful."

Police were dealing with protesters who hurled petrol bombs at security forces, the ministry said.

"The Coalition of the Youth of February 14th Revolution had urged sympathizers to march to Manama to commemorate the first anniversary of the uprising that was brutally crushed.

"Down with Hamad" protesters chanted.

Opposition groups called the police reaction "hysterical," saying security forces attacked women and children and elderly "who were badly beaten."

Maj. Gen. Tariq al-Hassan, warned Bahrainis "not to respond to the inciting calls on social networks to demonstrate." AFP

Uzbeks ordered to mark poet's day, not Valentine

TASHKENT—Uzbekistan on Tuesday encouraged people to skip Valentine's Day in favor of marking the birthday of a revered poet, with officials denouncing the Feb. 14 lovers day as an "alien" Western import.

Rather than sending cards and exchanging red hearts, Uzbeks instead were holding readings and poetry festivals to mark the birthday of the medieval emperor and poet Babur.

There was no official decree or law to ban Valentine's Day but there was a verbal instruction not to mark or mention it in mass media as a holiday, according to an official.

"During a government meeting a month ago it was described as an element of Western mass culture and alien to our national mentality and instead we were instructed to mark Babur's birthday with poetic festivals," an official, who asked not to named, told AFP.

Uzbekistan Muhammad Babur, born on Feb. 14 more than five centuries ago in Andijan, in the east of Uzbekistan, had founded an empire stretching from Afghanistan to India.

Babur, a descendant of another Turkish emperor, Amir Timur, was also a great poet.

Valentine's Day has become popular among the youth in Muslim Uzbekistan in recent years, worrying the secular government of ex-Soviet Central Asia's most populous nation about Western cultural imports.

A concert by Uzbek pop star Sogdiana, traditionally held on Feb. 14 to mark the day for lovers in Tashkent's main concert hall, was postponed and replaced with another event.

Unlike last year, private TV channels, radio stations and newspapers made no mention of Valentine's Day, but some young people continued to greet each other to mark the day.

One of the biggest supermarket chains in the capital Tashkent, "Korzinka.uz" placed a red-yellow picture of a heart at the entrance to its shops without any mention of Valentine's Day.

Its largest store had a big heart sign made of flowerpots on the floor. AFP

Vatican has own version of Wikileaks

VATICAN CITY—The Vatican is having its own version of the Wikileaks scandals that have hit the United States, spokesperson Federico Lombardi has said following a recent rash of leaks to the Italian press.

Newspapers have published letters by a whistleblower alleging rampant corruption in the Vatican, as well as accusing the Vatican bank of failing to implement laws against money laundering.

Last week, a confidential letter from a cardinal claiming knowledge of a plot to assassinate the pope within the next 12 months also came to light.

"We need calm, solid blood and reason," Father Lombardi said in a long interview published on Vatican Radio's website late on Monday.

US President Barack Obama's administration "had Wikileaks, the Vatican is having its leaks," he said.

Observers have said the leaks are evidence of an internal power struggle in the Vatican, particularly against Secretary of State Tarcisio Bertone.

"These leaks are intended to sow confusion and to show the Vatican, the government of the Church and the Church itself in a bad light," Lombardi said.

The spokesperson stressed that Pope Benedict XVI was committed to improving financial management of the Vatican administration and ensuring that the Vatican bank was in line with international rules against money laundering.

"It is sad that internal documents are being transmitted externally in a disloyal way," Lombardi said.

"Some of the documents described recently tend to discredit the engagement" to improve the Church's transparency, he added.

Asked later on Tuesday about persistent rumors that the Pope could resign, he said, "If this issue is ever seriously broached, we will discuss it. But now there is nothing serious and therefore nothing to say." AFP

New Jersey OKs same sex law

TRENTON, New Jersey—In a move that supporters called a civil rights milestone, New Jersey's state Senate on Monday passed a bill to recognize same-sex marriages, marking the first time state lawmakers officially endorsed the idea—despite the promise of a veto by Gov. Chris Christie.

Monday's vote was 24-16 in favor of the bill, a major swing from January 2010, when the Senate rejected it 20-14.

"It means the world isn't changing, it means the world has already changed," Steven Goldstein, chair of the gay rights group Garden State Equality said after the vote. "So wake up and smell the equality."

Before the vote, Marsha Shapiro squeezed the hand of her longtime partner Louise Walpin, and reflected on how a body that rejected gay marriage two years ago was about to change its stance.

"The pride will overpower the sorrow," she said.

But opponents say it's "an issue in futility" even if the Assembly passes the bill Thursday as expected, given Christie's vow to veto.

Len Deo, president of New Jersey Family Policy Council, called the vote "something we have to go through" and said it would be made moot with a veto.

While New Jersey differs from most states in that it has no law or state constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, but there in court new lawmakers have allowed gay nuptials. Iowa, Iowa and Washington, D.C. allow gay marriage. Washington state joined the list Monday when Gov. Christine Gregoire signed a same-sex marriage law.

In 2006, the New Jersey's Supreme Court ruled that the state had to give the legal protections of marriage to committed gay and lesbian couples, but that it need not call those protections marriage.

Lawmakers responded by creating civil unions rather than marriage.

Gay rights advocates say civil unions have not provided true equality. They complain that they set up a separate and inferior—only unequal classification for gays—something social conservatives dispute. AP

Burma has 'simple ambition': To surpass Asean neighbors



UN: Crimes vs humanity by Syrian gov't continue



UN awards Suu Kyi nonviolence prize

AFP

Study: Aspirin could beat cancer spread

Bomb suspect wounded in Bangkok blasts

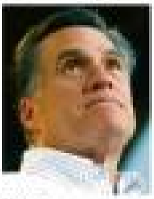


Next terror cases in US to be tried by military courts

The WORLD

Santorum, Romney in virtual tie, says poll

WASHINGTON—Former US Sen. Rick Santorum has surged into a virtual tie in opinion polls with Republican presidential front-runner Mitt Romney, setting up a rough fight in the party's primary in Michigan on Feb 28.



ROMNEY



SANTORUM

France's Sarkozy to run for reelection



SARKOZY

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Biz Buzz:** Aspiring Midas /B2
- **Local online gaming firms to merge** /B6

BUSINESS

- **DOF sees better prospects for emerging markets** /B2-1
- **PNOC-EC earmarking P5.5B for exploration activities in '12** /B2-4

Gov't earmarks ₱19.6B for PPP this year

Counterpart funding for projects with private sector

MALACAÑANG has earmarked P19.6 billion in counterpart funding to help rev up its public-private partnership (PPP) infrastructure initiative this year, an amount higher by 57 percent than the P12.5 billion allotted last year.

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

42.750



STOCK MARKET

26.1



Stocks down on profit-taking

Maynilad allots ₱616M for 2 Metro projects

Aspiring Midas

Biz Buzz
By the staff

Counterpart funding for projects

APEC Plans Bulletin

APEC Plans - True to its commitment to Typhoon Sendong Flood Victims



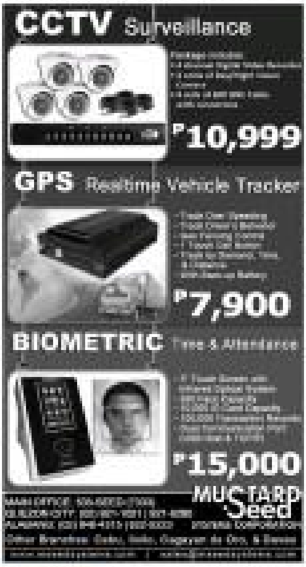
APEC Plans Renews license



Maynilad allots P616M

Stocks down





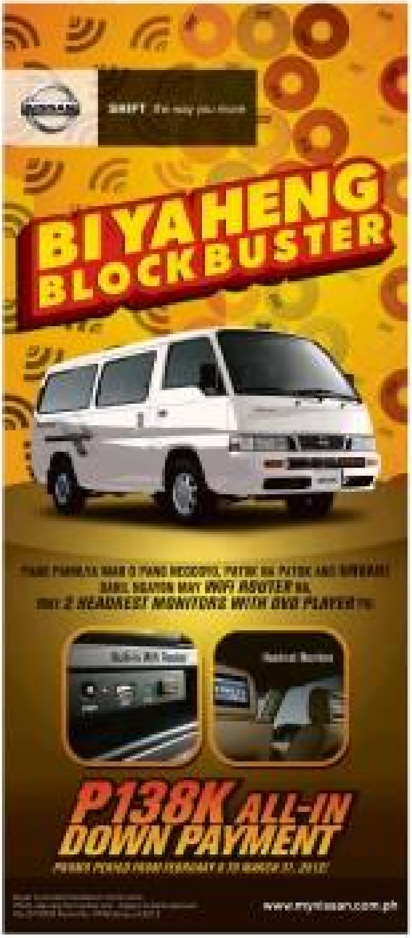




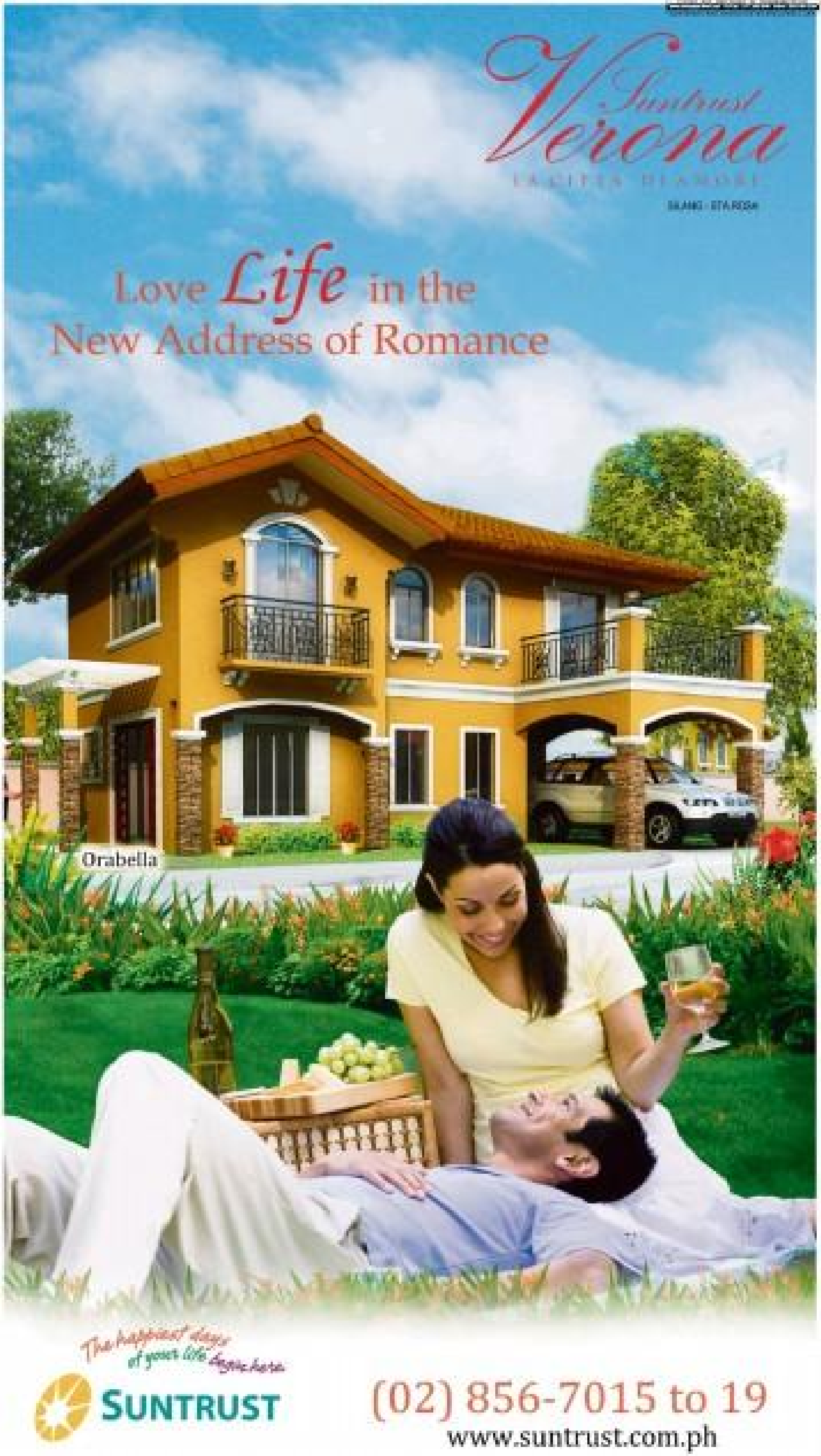











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Suntrust Verona

LA CITTA' DI AMORE

THE CITY OF Love

By Charles Dalson

ITALY is perhaps famous for its three cities: The capital Rome, formerly the seat of the most powerful empire in antiquity; Venice, famous for its canals and gondolas; and Florence, well-known for its rich history, cultural and artistic heritage.

However, there is another city that also deserved inclusion. Verona. Known for its ancient amphitheatre where opera is still in fact, performed even until today, this northern Italian city has even served as the setting for the Shakespearean tragedy of Romeo and Juliet.

"Verona was designated world heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the large number of monuments dating back from antiquity, the medieval and Renaissance periods. But of course, it was through playwright William Shakespeare's immortal love story of Romeo and Juliet that Verona gained its perennial fame," described Atty. Harrison Paltongan, president of Suntrust Properties Inc.

Enamored

In fact, Paltongan was so enamored with the city when he visited the place a couple of years ago that he decided to make it the inspiration for a new project Suntrust Properties Inc. is developing in Silang, Cavite.

"We were thinking of what excellent theme to give our new project and the city of Verona came out a unanimous choice," remembered Paltongan.

Suntrust Properties' Verona: La Citta' di Amore is a 67 hectare property which will have four enclaves or phases, with each one having its own concept.

"Mediterranean would be the central architectural design influence for the first phase of the property but we also intend to build communities bearing American, Asian and even African design influences," described Paltongan.

City of love

The project has adopted the "La Citta' di Amore" or the City of Love appellation and in fact, is set to build a replica of the Italian city's famous balcony and house of Juliet—Casa di Giulietta—that will serve as the development's sales office.

"This will be the centerpiece of the 2 hectare area that will serve as Verona: La Citta' di Amore's multipurpose area. From the architecture that will be found here, one would now expect the overall design theme of the houses that would soon rise. Pastel colored homes that feature tiled roofing and classical motifs on every section," described Paltongan.

Apart from the Casa di Giulietta, Verona will also build Italian themed nature park and bridgeway, a clubhouse that will feature a visual room, swimming pool, basketball court, shops and even a hiking trail.

"We also named our model houses in the Italian tradition: the 120 sq.m single detached Fiorenza (Blossoming), 132 sq.m single detached Gisella (Pledge), 145 sq.m single detached Caterina (Pure), 154 sq.m single detached Giuditta (Golden Beauty), 178 sq.m single detached Amadea (To love God) as well as 88 sq.m standard and premium duplex type Mariella (Beloved)," enumerated Paltongan.

P2 million and up

He said with the house packages' prices ranging from P2 million and up, Verona is already attracting buyers from Metro Manila as well as those who are taking the already rare chance of having a relatively affordable home halfway between the famous tourist destination of Tagaytay City and the country's most important urban center, Metro Manila.

"Our proposition is in fact very enticing considering that our homes are still 60 to 70 percent lower than those in the Tagaytay City area and 40 to 50 percent lower than the properties sold in the Sta. Rosa, Laguna area. Verona has it all: cool year round climate that is almost similar to Tagaytay, hilly topography that ensures scenic surroundings and location that is near schools, hospitals, commercial and entertainment as well as industrial parks of Sta. Rosa," said Paltongan.

He added that for years, Suntrust Properties has provided communities that uplifted the image of the place they are located in.

"Every Filipino family dreams of owning a home within a secure and well-planned community. What we have in this particular area are unique communities that have exceeded market expectation and have become sold out in just a few months. With homebuyers clamoring for more, Suntrust Properties gave them even more: a romantic place that honors the romance between two immortal characters, Romeo and Juliet," said Paltongan.

For further details and inquiries, interested parties may call (02) 8867015 to 19 or visit www.suntrust.com.ph.



Business

Local online gaming firms to merge

Listed IP E-Games to acquire stake in Level Up

SMDC topped condo market in 2nd half of 2011

Power Situation Outlook

URC posts quarterly profit growth of 79%





Philippine Stock Exchange

Currencies

BUSINESS

DOF sees better prospects for emerging markets

Purisima urges private sector support for 'Manila 2012'

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE HEAD of the Aquino administration's economic team has called on the private sector to help drive the country forward and, as an incentive, pointed out to members of the local business community that emerging market economies like the Philippines stand to grow at a faster clip than their developed counterparts.

In particular, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima cited the success of the government's recent $1.5-billion global bond issue as an indicator of this trend.

"Growth in emerging markets is expected to be much faster than the developed world. Funds will continue to flow to markets like the Philippines and the rest of the Asean," Purisima said in a recent speech before members of Management Association of the Philippines.

"We aim not only to make it easy for funds to come to the Philippines, but to have more funds in the Philippines," the finance chief said, referring to the recently launched tourism campaign de-part of the government. "This is doable through good governance."

Purisima noted that the administration's good governance thrust has, as of November 2011, helped increase the Bureau of Internal Revenue's collection by 13 percent, without the aid of additional taxes or the sale of government assets.

Purisima said that aside from good governance, public-private partnerships are critical if the country wants to realize opportunities in the region and move forward.

During the event, Purisima formally sealed the partnership between the Department of Finance and the MAP for the hosting of the 45th annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank to be held from May 2 to May 5 at the Philippine International Convention Center and the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City.

Private sector participation in the event—officially called "Manila 2012"—will be led by MAP.

As a partner, MAP will implement the event's sponsorship program, including the receipt and collection of sponsorship contributions for Manila 2012.

Tourism and infrastructure, information technology and the business process outsourcing industry, creative industries, and agriculture are some of the sectors to be highlighted during the event.

The event is expected to host 4,000 delegates, including more than 400 officials and VIPs from 67 ADB member countries.

Keeping peso steady takes its toll on BSP

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas continued to post losses by the end of November 2011 as it beefed up expenses and engaged in heavy dollar buying to prevent the peso from sharply appreciating.

Although the BSP has a policy of allowing the value of the peso to be determined by the market, officials still intervene from time to time to avoid any sudden rise or decline of the local currency.

A volatile currency tends to hurt businesses and the economy in general, they explained.

Documents from the BSP showed that from January to November, it incurred a net income loss of P32.59 billion. But the amount was an improvement from the P49.25-billion loss it registered in the same period the previous year.

The latest income loss was attributed to the central bank's foreign exchange trading operations. Losses from trading operations actually amounted to P56.27 billion. Also, an income from other sources added to the central bank's net loss by nearly [illegible] billion.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the income loss was necessary to help prevent the adverse effects of a volatile currency.

The central bank has the mandate of helping the economy run smoothly. And if achieving the mandate were to entail higher expenses on trading operations, then the losses could be considered a necessary consequence, he said.

The BSP earlier reported that the peso's volatility—the degree of fluctuation against the US dollar—stood at 1.22 percent last year (data as of Dec. 20).

The peso averaged at 43.37 against the US dollar in November last year, slightly stronger than the 43.49 registered in the same period the previous year.

New framework said to pose no risk to banks

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas believes that the country's banking sector will be able to manage its exposure to bad debts even with the implementation of a new reserve requirement framework.

The BSP said Moody's Investors Service need not be concerned with the new reserve requirement framework. The new set of guidelines would not push banks to lend even to credit-risky borrowers, raising their chances of acquiring more non-performing loans.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said banks have so far kept the same credit standards over the past quarter or two, adding that there are no signs they will relax of those standards due to the new framework.

Prior to the announcement of the new reserve requirement, BSP officials pointed out to banking representatives that the new system would have a neutral impact on banks' liquidity and should not prompt them to relax credit standards, Tetangco said.

Reserve requirement is the proportion of deposits held by banks that must be kept as reserves. Reserves are meant to help control growth of money within the economy and thus temper inflation.

Under the new framework, the BSP will no longer pay interest on the reserves, which used to generate income for the banks.

Moody's warned that the termination of interest on reserves would lead to lower margins for banks, and this could prompt them to increase lending even to credit-risky borrowers just to recover lost income.

But such a scenario is unlikely to happen, the BSP said, citing the prudent lending standards Philippine banks have observed over the years. Michelle V. Remo

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Manila, Philippines

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OBITUARIES

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life
he who believes in Me will live, even when he dies
and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

IGNALENA "LENI" CARRASCO NAVARRO

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39



Ofelia Peña Sevilla

December 2, 1936 – February 11, 2012

Schedule of Masses:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4)

BUSINESS

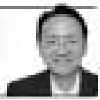
PNOC-EC earmarking ₱5.5B for exploration activities in '12

Company also wants to use this year unused 2011 budget



Is it time to invest in the stock market?

MONEY MATTERS
Henry Ong



7-year treasury bond yield declines

RFM profit down 19%

Educating MSMEs for Business Success

MOTORING

Bourne to have fun

Hollywood stunt driver Tanner Foust is enjoying the 'chaotic' Manila traffic and plans to build a drift jeepney

By Alvin Uy

[illegible]



FOUST is the leading man behind the wheel for Bourne Legacy's major vehicle stunt scenes.



FOUST performing one of his death-defying stunts in an exhibition.

Basics of tuning and modifying



Skid Marks
Botchi Santos

Bourne to have fun





Life's fun in a jeepney

Having fun in PH

BPI Family Saving Bank makes it easy for auto buyers

AT A GLANCE





The 'point-and-shoot' subcompact

Mazda2 owners have no regrets amidst tempting new competition





IT ZOOM-ZOOMS, AND IT'S CUTE.







Chevrolet's GPS Cruze Control

Good year



Cebu dealership is biggest for Chevrolet PH's growing network



MOTORING



PORSCHE power is women power: [illegible]



[illegible]

It didn't rain, but it 'Porsche-d' at the Clark Speedway; and the women were represented

'Porsche-d' to the limit

By Tessa R. Salazar

IT WAS a perfect Wednesday morning for flying hot air balloons—with just the right amount of wind, clouds and sun—at the former Clark Airbase in Pampanga. But my gaze was not aimed up. It was directly aimed at 22 jaw-dropping Porsches shipped in straight from Germany and parked at the Clark International Speedway.

I stared long enough to have flashbacks run through my mind. When was the last time I drove a Porsche? A red Boxster S five years ago for a weekend spin; six years ago, when I drove three Porsches at the Porsche World Roadshow, then, six months ago a brief immersion at the Porsche Museum in Stuttgart. But since then, nothing.

Now the drought, it seemed, would be over.

The Germans certainly brought on a tropical storm of Porsches on this day, in an event called "Porsche World Roadshow." Of the 29 motoring media participants invited by the PGA Cars Inc, the male members dominated in numbers, as there were only five of us ladies. German chief instructor Tobias Thrams assured us that a male-dominated roadshow was normal in all countries the roadshows have been held. He said that in other countries, as few as five percent were women.

Today, at least, we made it 17 percent.

Not that I would want to make this a gender issue, but who originated the phrase "toys for the big boys", anyway? To many people, women included, the conventional thinking has been that a Porsche is a man's car. But is it, really?

I just have in my possession the "Porsche Ladies" literature—Porsche Museum's "pink book", and the only one I have seen so far dedicated to Porsche women drivers. This book attempts to give credit to where some of the credit is due. "Many women see things differently—thankfully! Because they like sports cars, too, and take great pleasure in driving a Porsche," a passage in the book reads.

And one might to remember this number: 11,800. Roughly, that's just the number of women who bought new Porsches in 2008 and 2009, representing 16 percent of the total 80,000 purchasers. That doesn't even count the number of ladies who got Porsches as gifts from their men (or from another lady perhaps?). The brand's statement is clear, though: Without women, the Porsche brand would not be what it is today.

So, there were the numbers: 29 motoring media participants, five instructors (all foreigners), 22 Porsches. With so many technological advancements inside Porsche cars, all to be absorbed in just one track day, I wondered how we could even manage to keep our thoughts on the track.

Concentrating on driving was a necessity, as we would have to execute several exercises supposedly showing the best a Porsche sports car could do. These exercises included handling, slalom, road tour and offroad. Porsche instructors may have opted not to mention it, but one thing kept the cars in one piece, and it's the Porsche braking system, which instructor Tobias says produces 2 to 2.5 times more power to decelerate the vehicle, compared to the German standard of just 1.7 times more power. Thus, for a 500-hp Porsche, over 1000 hp is generated by the braking system just to slow down the car.

The road tour segment, which made us drive out of the Clark Speedway and onto public roads in the area, gave us a chance to drive a 911 Targa 4s (capable of accelerating from 0 to 100 kph in just 4.9 seconds and to a top speed of 297 kph), Cayenne S hybrid (the new purplish tall hybrid that [illegible] 3.0-liter V6 supercharged engine supported by an electric machine [illegible] for greater fuel and driving efficiency), Panamera 4S (a four-seater with all-wheel drive, plenty of room, thank God, and the performance of a thoroughbred sports car).

The Panamera and the Cayenne are good for "bag ladies" like me—and not just for shopping. I purposely bring a medium sized bag in every drive (yes, I know it's a small bag but what the heck, I bring a big bag every day anyway), and found the other Porsches a [illegible] for space—except for these two variants.

In the handling test, cars

PORSCHE-D/ [illegible]

Seen and heard at the 2012 Porsche World Roadshow

ON THE ROAD



Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

[illegible]

In style

[illegible]

5 teams

[illegible]

Most exciting

[illegible]







'Porsche-d' to the limit

[illegible]



THEURER with the other Porsche instructors

Unconventional

[illegible]



Born To Run

All-new Porsche 911 is made to carve up roads and racetracks with precision

By Jason K. Ang

THE CLARK International Speedway has been host to several car launches over the past two years, with varying degrees of appropriateness. There has probably been none as suitable to the track as this, the all-new Porsche 911 Carrera. [illegible]

Providing hope for homeless families



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Poverty alleviation

Major development

Innovative

FREE Insurance makes Car Ownership EASY for BPI Clients

BPI Family Bank remains the leader in auto loans with pioneering promos like the FREE Insurance with Acts of Nature Coverage and Nationwide Auto Madness Events.

BPI Family Savings Bank Auto Loan has always been known for taking care of its clients through its innovative loan packages that do not only provide transaction ease and convenience, but also the least cost for its borrowers. One such offer is the recently launched Auto loan with FREE Comprehensive insurance with Acts of Nature coverage, protecting the car from costly damages from accidents and natural calamities.

It's no secret that a comprehensive motor insurance has a hefty price attached to it, but it remains to be a necessity for any car owner. Comprehensive insurance usually amounts to about three percent of the market value of the vehicle. Meaning, a car worth PHP 1.5 Million has a comprehensive insurance amounting to about PHP 45,000.00. But in the event of disasters like floods or accidents, the peace of mind you can get from knowing that you are protected is priceless.

BPI Family Auto Loan has seen this need and has come out with its new promo of a FREE Comprehensive Insurance offered exclusively to BPI and BPI Family Savings Bank clients that allows them to save on initial cash out while protecting their cars from destructive calamities and accidents.

"Ease and convenience is emphasized in every promo we offer to our clients because we want them to feel important by giving them the best value for their money," says Mr. David Sarmiento, Jr., SVP and Head of Auto Loans Division. "Our aim at BPI Family Auto Loan is to make it easy for Filipino car buyers by lessening the costs of owning a brand new car through FREE 1 year comprehensive insurance with Acts of Nature Coverage. This way, we also help them prepare for the unexpected and ensure that when typhoons, floods or other calamities hit, they are surely protected."

The promo will run from February 1, 2012 to June 1, 2012. In order to qualify for this promo, clients need to take out an auto loan of at least Php 600,000.00 with a minimum term of 36 months. The said loan must be for the purchase of a brand new vehicle for private use. Clients must also agree to renew auto insurance coverage with BPI/MS Insurance Corporation for the entire duration of the loan.

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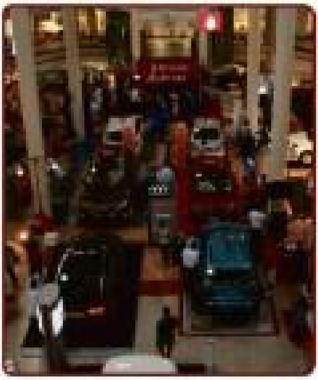
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BPI Family Savings Bank Auto Loan brings car ownership closer to Filipinos anywhere in the Philippines as it holds nationwide Auto Madness that showcases numerous dealers and brands all under one venue, with on-the-spot processing of applications.



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Latest and best car models are on display during one of the bank's pioneering car events, the BPI Family Auto Madness.

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Safety and Protection

Protect your car with BPI Family Savings Bank Auto Loan's FREE one year Comprehensive Insurance with Acts of Nature coverage EXCLUSIVELY to BPI and BPI Family Savings Bank clients.

BPI Family Auto has been known for its advocacy on safe and responsible driving as it partnered with the Automobile Association Philippines' Grand Swear-in toward a Decade of Action and launch the Safe Drive campaign in Tagaytay City.



BPI Foundation Executive Director, Fernando Mananes; Christopher Lao, Automobile Association Philippines Vice President for Road Safety; Johnny Angeles, AAP Director and Chairperson Government Liaison; David Arcenas, BPI Family Savings Bank President, TG Limcaoco pledge for road safety during the Grand Swear-in event at 102 Paseo.



Felipe Carlos, VP and Dealer Network Head; Miriam Jane Jacinto, VP and Auto Loan Direct Marketing Head; David Sarmiento, Jr., SVP and Head of Auto Loans Division; and Ramon Noel Albarinara, VP and Head of Product Marketing.

BFSB is bullish on loans this year as consumer confidence rises along with steady economic growth. To further boost the auto industry, BFSB has come up with initiatives that give the best value for Filipinos, especially its clients. BPI Family Savings Bank Auto Loan revs up 2012, continuing where it left off in 2011 by making car ownership EASY for Filipinos. The bank now offers a FREE One Year Comprehensive Insurance with Acts of Nature Coverage that's EXCLUSIVE to BPI and BPI Family Savings Bank clients.

Lifestyle Home & Entertaining





In rare feat, Filipina joins autumn ikebana

A lone participant from the Philippines recalls the romantic Japanese festival

By Joy Rabalias
Contributor

ONCE THERE was a king of the heavens. He realized that his daughter, the Princess Weaver Star, and her husband, the Cow Herder Star, were so madly in love with each other that they were no longer performing their daily assigned tasks. The king then drastically decided to keep the Princess Weaver Star away from her husband, the Cow Herder Star.

Now, the couple may meet only once a year—on the eve of the seventh of July—by crossing the Milky Way. If it happens that the rains should come, the star-crossed lovers will have to put off their tryst for another year. This break did not stop them, however, from looking forward to their next meeting.

To celebrate this romantic story, the Japanese people write poems and special wishes on colorful strips of paper called tanzaku, and hang them from the limbs of bamboo and sakura (more popularly known as cherry blossom) trees.

The feast, known as Tanabata, has gradually developed, and is now observed in Kyoto in November to allow the ... populace to participate. July is a busy farming period, which ... many Japanese in the south.

The celebration includes the biggest Autumn Ikenobo Ikebana Exhibition in the world in Kyoto, with about 700 ikebana

FLORAL B3

Artist does unique furniture using hardwood

Niccolo Jose uses the blowtorch to fashion 'pyrographic' pieces

By Alex Y. Vergara

EVEN BEFORE US-educated Filipino sculptor Niccolo Jose used his training in the visual arts to create functional art pieces such as furniture, "pyrographic" portraitures and even costume jewelry, the young artist has been into carpentry. He's been doing carpentry work, in fact, since he was 10.

Fresh from an exhibit of his Spring Collection at ..., Jose is gearing up for one more exhibit in March, at ... He will showcase ... using rare Philippine hardwood ... from his ... collection.

(Those who want to see his stuff, including one-of-a-kind chairs, tables and clocks can go to Studio 19-10, the artist's showroom at LRI Design Plaza on N. Garcia St., Makati. Call ... or ...)

"I did furniture pieces before, but it was more of a hobby," said the Boston-



CLOCK'S ...

ARTIST C2







Artist does unique furniture using hardwood





FRAMED clock





Special



FUNCTIONAL piece doubles as artwork.

In rare feat, Filipina joins . . .



Surprised and delighted



12 steps to a green 2012

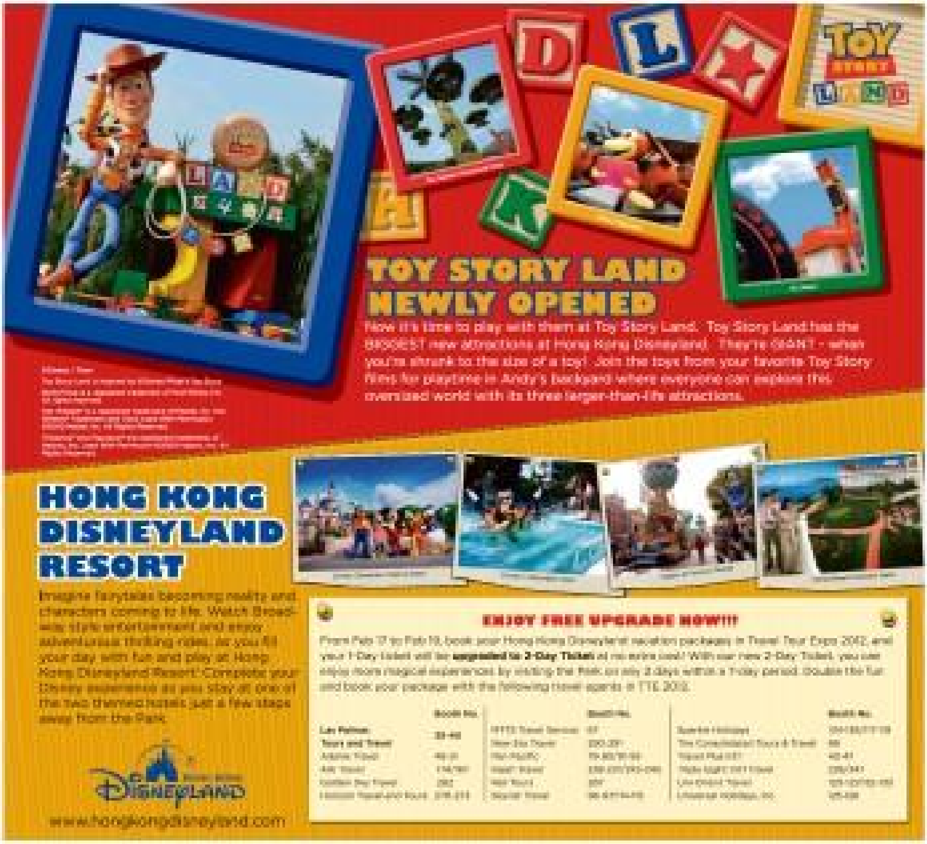
THE CONSUMER
Linda B. Bolido

[illegible]

Giving value to coins

[illegible]





A gift of scent

Anton Barretto and Mariana Lopa



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MAKE your own rosewater from petals.



Homemade rosewater makes a good love giveaway

A BOTTLE of rose water will make a good gift or party giveaway. This concoction dates back to the middle ages, and is still very much in use to this day. [illegible]

[illegible]

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- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]

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SMART iPhone

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS



A. LIPIN



PUGAD BABOY — BY PM JUNIOR



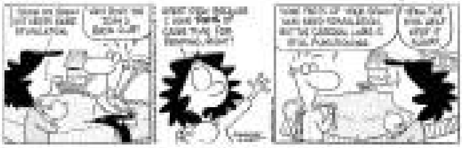
DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



LOVELINOTS



BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT



KIKO MACHINE — BY MANIX ABRERA



BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON



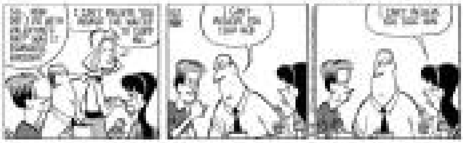
MUTTS — BY PATRICK McDONNELL



SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY



DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER



TULDOK



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

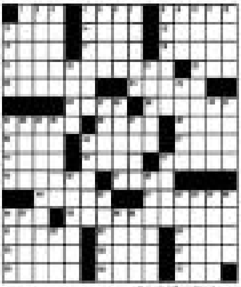
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		8		4		6		2
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Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

DOWN



Angry birds descend upon SM













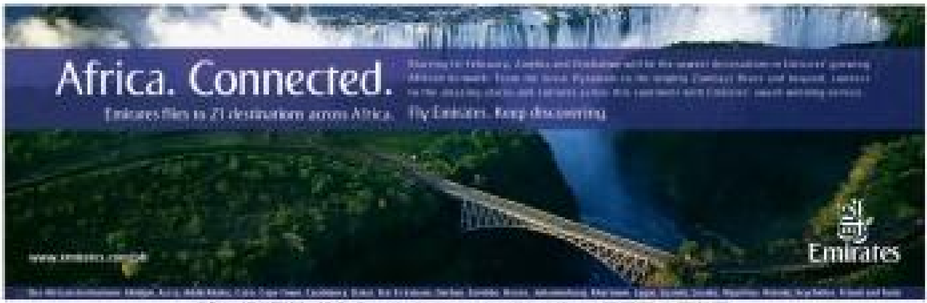
Love lessons we can learn from our kids

Audrey Tan-Zubiri



MAMA DIARIES

What you see is what you get. They're not lugging around issues from the past and taking it out on you



Archt. Shamcey Supsup is the Newest Brand Ambassadress of CW Home Depot

[illegible]



In photo (L-R): CW Home Depot's Marketing Manager Mr. Alvin Uy, Finance Manager Mr. Nico Landicho, Consultant Mr. Victor Chan and Managing Director Mr. Ferdinand Co, CW Home Depot's Brand Ambassadress Archt. Shamcey Supsup, CW Home Depot's President Engr. Napoleon Co, Legal Comptroller Mr. Aldo Co, Corporate Communications and Events Manager Ms. Ana Flores and Accounting Manager Ms. Michelle Jara



In photo (L-R): CW Home Depot's President Engr. Napoleon Co, Consultant Mr. Victor Chan and Managing Director Mr. Ferdinand Co, CW Home Depot's Brand Ambassadress Archt. Shamcey Supsup and Binibining Pilipinas Charities, Inc. VP for Marketing Ms. Cecille Manrique during the contract signing





In photo (L-R): CW Home Depot's Consultant Mr. Victor Chan and Managing Director Mr. Ferdinand Co, CW Home Depot's Brand Ambassadress Archt. Shamcey Supsup and CW Home Depot's President Engr. Napoleon Co



Archt. Shamcey Supsup during her contract signing for CW Home Depot

Some Fast Facts about Shamcey

[illegible]

General Santos City - Home of the Beauty and the Boxer

[illegible]



That luxury-condominium lifestyle

Why there's a market for living 'in the sky'—but amid a convenient, bustling environment



A CASCADING chandelier [illegible]

By Margo C. Enriquez

IT FEELS LIKE living in the sky in the grand penthouse in a luxury development in Ortigas. The three-story enclave offers a sweeping panorama of Manila Bay and Laguna Lake; an infinity pool on the rooftop, a glass-walled lounge, open space with double-height ceiling, and floor-to-ceiling windows that let the outdoor views in.

[illegible]





CARLO Albert, Cris Albert, Isabella Albert and Kei Wakasmi



CRIS and Butch Albert listen to well-wishers.



ELENA Bragger and Abby Yap



AT SHANGRI-LA Boracay's ... Cris and Butch Albert renew their wedding vows.



CRIS Albert is escorted by son Carlo to the ceremony venue for wedding vow.



WANDA Louwallien, Cris Albert's mom, chats with Tim Yap.

Cupid's hits and misses

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache



Photo by Alex Van Hagen
powered by MAC

SAINT VALENTINE'S Day this year is on a leap year. So, gals, stop being coy, take a leap and go for it.

For Valentine's week, I'm writing about wedding vows and love memorials, as well as Cupid's many hits and few misses.

I'll pop off with the renewal of their marriage vows after 10 years of bliss of vivacious Cris Abad Santos and businessman Butch Albert, Fila International Corp.'s first couple.

Theirs was a romantic sunset ceremony at the beachside of the gorgeous Shangri-La Boracay, dahlings.

Only 15 chosen family members and close pals were invited to the romantic happening. Dressed in creamy colors and whites were Cris' mother, Wanda Louwallien, and sister Ann Abad Santos. Cris A. was in a cool floaty white beach chic dress by Betsey Johnson, with a crown of white flowers.

The happening was in the private Villa 15—one of the two-tiered luxurious "specialty villas," which has direct access to a private beach—the perfect backdrop and setting for a truly romantic affair, dahlings.

An excellent divine dinner menu was prepared by the hotel's renowned chef Phil Birmingham, and the bash went on till almost sunrise with Cris' favorite drink, chilled bubbly Moët et Chandon Rosé, flowing like forever.

Next was the super-fun wedding of tall Juan Rodrigo Castañer Ponce Enrile and fundraiser Danielle Anne Lopez Talvarez last Jan. 5 at the sprawling garden of the Ponce Enrile residence. The wedding gown of the bride and the barong of the groom were by Randy Ortiz.

Next was the superb wedding of the well-liked Christopher Paris Warne and outstanding businesswoman Bianca Cardenas Zobel last Jan. 8 at Hacienda Sigala, Calatagan, Batangas.

The couple's wedding outfits were both made by visionary designer Pepito Albert.

Cupid hit another bull's eye when popular Pasig Rep. Roman Romulo gave up his bachelorhood and exchanged "I do's" with Valenzuela Councilor and television personality Shalani Soledad.

Shalani, wearing a super-chic wedding gown by Inno Sotto, looked like a princess during the wedding ceremony last Jan. 22 at St. Benedict Church in Westgrove, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Reception followed at the Fordberry Grand Orchids, Nuvali, also in Sta. Rosa.

In love

That cute and sometimes naughty little angel is aiming his love arrow, sometimes missing his aim and many times hitting a bull's-eye.

One of my favorite pals, young achiever GP Reyes, told me: "You Maurice of all people know that I've been in a few relationships. Some have been amazing. Some not so amazing. But January of last year, I met TV's gorgeous Andi Manzano and she's absolutely infinity. Hopefully in two years, I will bequeath my bachelorhood to the next generation. I've found this wonderful woman who I have been praying for all these years during the ups and downs of my love life."

Meanwhile, beauty Cristalle Henares broke off with Mouse Abdayesh last year, but she surely didn't sit home and reminisce the past. She moved forward and fast.

"So where the man in your life now?" I asked her.

"Well, I have two in line," she said. "One is a popular athlete and the other another athlete, would you believe?"

"Who are they?" I asked.

She did give me their names but I promised her that my lips would be sealed. ...till I get the go signal, dahlings.

Another favorite palangga, southern beauty Trish Raymond Villanueva, is going out with nice young businessman Anton Palanca. They're the newest twosome around town.

But Cupid apparently made a major mistake with Celine Lopez and executive Enrique Gonzalez.

Their engagement was announced at a grand dinner affair in February 2011. I then asked when the big day was, and Celine answered, "11/11/11."

Well, dahlings faster than you could bat an eyelash, Celine shocked her pals, including me, when she said, "It's all over between Enrique and I. Better now than later if we got married."

But she has moved on. She had left the country and was planning to get her masters in London, when bang! Cupid worked fast and aimed his arrow that zoomed straight to the heart of tall, dashing and absolutely charming Danish businessman Paul Goldgaard.

Happier than ever, Celine and Paul look like they both have found true love at last. I for one surely hope so. They totally deserve each other, dahlings.



ENGAGEMENT called off: Enrique Gonzalez and Celine Lopez



CRISTALLE Henares called it quits with Mouse Abdayesh. But she says she has moved on.



JUAN Rodrigo Castañer Ponce Enrile and Danielle Anne Lopez Talvarez Ponce Enrile



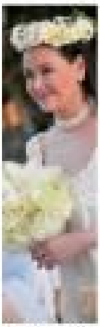
VALENZUELA Councilor Shalani Soledad and Pasig Rep. Roman Romulo



NEW TWOSOME: Anton Palanca and Trish Raymond Villanueva



VICTOR Ortega and BJ Albert



HAPPY bride once again Cris Albert



JUNE Parrera and Patricia Tan



CHRISTOPHER Paris Warne and Bianca Cardenas Zobel



CELINE Lopez and new boyfriend, Danish Paul Goldgaard



GP REYES and Andi Manzano



That luxury-condominium lifestyle

Accessibility



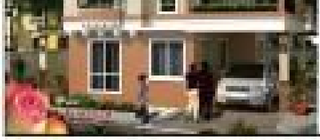


Verona: Suntrust's 'City of Love' Takes Shape in Cavite









That luxury-condominium lifestyle



Investment





ENTERTAINMENT

Pill-popping performer sings the blues



MARIAN Rivera on marrying Dingdong Dantes: "Not yet!"

By the Entertainment Staff

RUSHES

A ONCE Popular Performer has been turning to pills to cope with depression. Alarmed relations have expressed concern because PP refuses to venture out of the house [illegible]. Perhaps it's because Formidable Rival has overtaken PP in both the professional and personal fronts. PP is languishing in career limbo, with a future [illegible] shambles, too.

While FR is much-loved in the industry, PP has earned notoriety due to a volatile temper and unpredictable ways. Why should PP even wonder why FR is basking in stardom?

Abandoning pals

Controversial Personality sought the help of Struggling Artists to get a project off the ground. Through SA's hard work, CP's project hit the jackpot. How did CP repay them?

He turned his back on SA and passed on a follow-up project to Major Player!

Dressing room diva

[illegible]

Obviously PC believed that PS, as star of the show, deserved her own dressing room.

Talk about delusions of grandeur.

PILL-POPPING F2



Pill-popping performer sings the blues

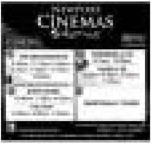


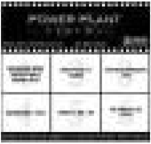









CINEMAS


POWER PLANT


OPENS FEBRUARY 22
11-11-11




breaking wind
THE REAL STORY


GRAND OPENING TODAY
5 OSCAR NOMINATIONS
Descendants

GRAMMYS GEAR

From glam to garish

[illegible]



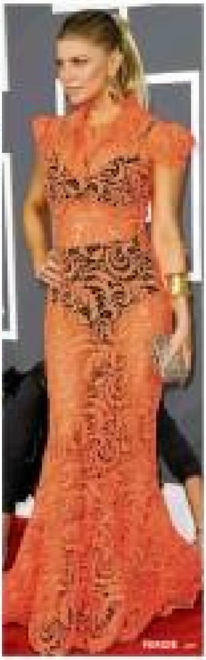
SASHA Gradiva



CARRIE Underwood



NICKI Minaj



FERGIE



KATY Perry on the red carpet; inset, the singer onstage at the 54th Grammys.

ENTERTAINMENT

Losing Whitney

HEARD



ISABELLE Huppert in "Captive"

Divisive, as usual

From Berlinale, first word on Mendoza's 'Captive' ambivalent


ROBINSONS
MOVIEWORLD
GALLERIA
MANILA
METRO EAST
NOVALICHES
FORUM ROBINSONS
AVAIL OF OUR
Love Month Specials!
FREE JR. PAPA MEAL WORTH P200!
FREE
BUY ONE TAKE ONE
FREE
30% OFF!
THIS ENTITLES YOU TO ONE FREE PREMIUM ITEM
FOR EVERY TWO (2) TICKET PURCHASE
MOVIEWORLD
STA. ROSA
LIPA
DASMARIÑAS
CABANATUAN
IMUS
TACLOBAN
ILOCOS NORTE
DUMAGUETE
BACOLOD
ILOILO
GENSAN
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when you buy from
February 10 to 20, 2012
Showing Exclusively at SM CINEMA on February 29
IMAX
metro manila
luzon
visayas - mindanao
OFFERS A WIDE VARIETY OF FOOD AND DRINKS
AT ALL SM CINEMA LOBBIES

Losing Whitney Houston



Opening This Week

Hugo



Asa Butterfield in "Hugo"

Unofficially Yours

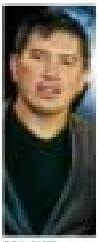
The Descendants

Bola

Breaking Wind

Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance

Divisive, as usual



Worth watching



Everybody has a favorite Whitney song



WHITNEY Houston

DOLLY WOOD

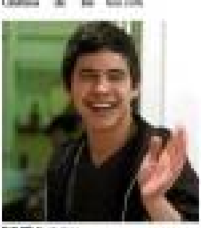


Dolly Anne Carvajal

Letter to David

Missing movies

Beauty expo



DAVID Archuleta



Fashion hits and misses

Battle for custody



Real-Estate Special
Rock-solid confidence

Supplements Head: Jong Arcano

Five good reasons to consider
La Verti's hi-rise



La Verti offers first-class amenities include adult swimming pool, kiddie pool, playground and basketball court for more active lifestyle.

DMCI Homes, developer of a new high-rise project in Pasay City named La Verti Residences, gives five reasons why.

1. Premium Location

Bounded by Taft Ave. and Donada St., La Verti Residences presents a premium on accessibility and convenience for the urban dweller, with the development enjoying a strategic location in the heart of the metro. The project site is within striking distance to the business districts of Manila, Pasay, and Makati. From their prestigious address, residents can freely travel to and from important business destinations, while saving on time that can be allotted instead to more important moments like bonding with the family.

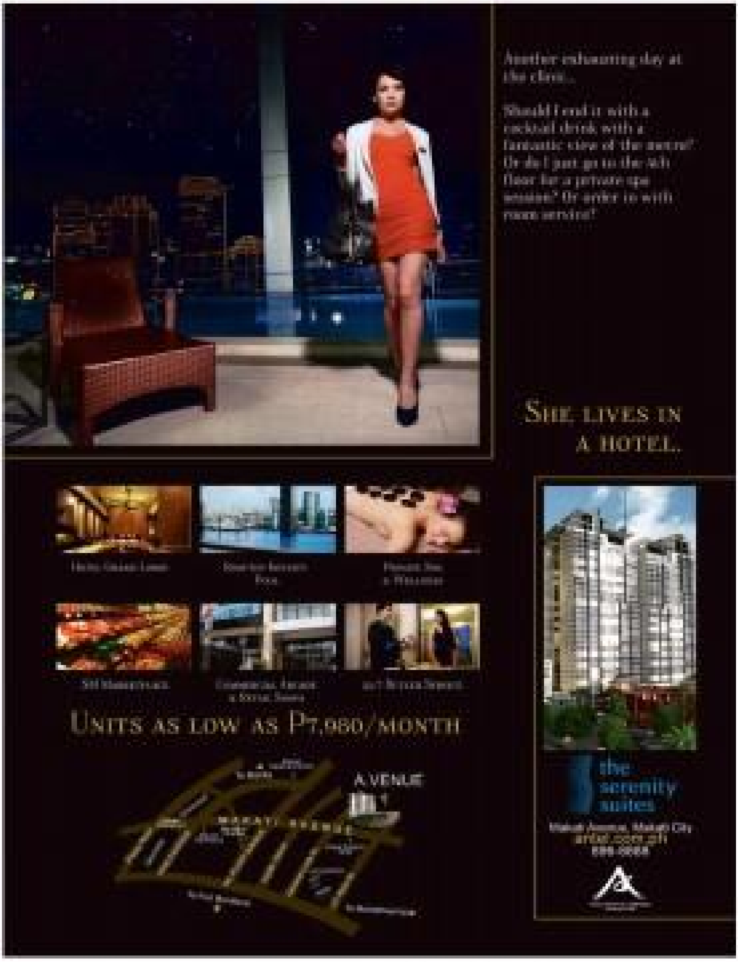
Aside from business hubs, La Verti gives residents access to commercial, leisure, and educational locations in the metro, as well as landmark cultural and historical spots around a dynamic district. Establishments such as Robinson's Malate, SM Manila and the Mall of Asia are no more than 3.5 kilometers away. Educational institutions such as the De La Salle University, UP Manila and St. Scholastica's along with prominent cultural and arts destinations, the CCP Complex, Intramuros, museums, the Roxas Blvd. district and the Rizal Coliseum are all within a 5-kilometer reach.

PAGE B4






It's more fun in A.Venue Serenity Suites opening its doors



Getting high on Highlands





Real estate developers honor VP Binay









NAR Chief to speak at CIPS grad rites, Feb. 27



BROWN



GONNYEB

Lagoon enhances the natural beauty of The Arborage at Brentville



PRO-FRIENDS: looking forward to a bigger 2012

FROM THE unprecedented growth experienced by Property Company of Friends, Inc. or PRO-FRIENDS in 2011, they are cautiously optimistic on further upsurge this year.

For over a decade now, the company has grown from creating small pocket developments to forming sprawling estates. They have 52 finished projects under their belt with 36 on-going developments. From their growing presence in the south particularly in Cavite and Iloilo, they are now also set to open a project in Pampanga by the middle of the year.

"We are very positive about the market given the huge backlog especially in the affordable segment since this has always been what we cater to," said PRO-FRIENDS SVP for Operations, Cris Hilario.

Aggressive expansion and marketing has proven to be beneficial in 2011 and this is a strategy they will continue according to Hilario.

"At PRO-FRIENDS, we put to heart and practice our tagline of 'Creating communities. Transforming lives. We do this by providing quality, secure, well-planned and easy to own developments to Filipinos," Hilario said.

The company has pioneered the linear park design to promote neighbourly relationships among its communities. Most of the projects of the company have lifestyle amenities that include a pool and a community chapel.

One of the flagship projects of PRO-FRIENDS is Lancaster Estates.

Balance of work and play

With the recent opening of the Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX), you can now get to Lancaster Estates in less than 20 minutes from the Coastal road in Parañaque. Travel time has really been cut short, giving you more time to spend with family and loved ones.

Enjoy a vacation without leaving home

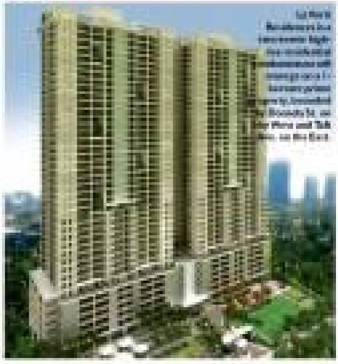
Lancaster Estates allows residents to move in a relaxed pace and bond with their families. It offers a wide range of lifestyle amenities that include Leighton Hall and a swimming pool where you and your loved ones can enjoy anytime. Set up a picnic or cook-out at the (linear park) Family Courtyard - that extra open space behind almost every home that can be used as a safe playground for kids. Enjoy the benefits of more space, abundant natural light and ventilation offered by the Family Courtyard.

Everything within reach

The estate chapel, The Church of The Holy Family, also allows the residents to delight in having a place of worship right where they live. St. Edward Integrated School, under consultancy with the Lasallian Schools Supervision Office(LASSO), is set to open by SY 2012-2013 right in the heart of Lancaster Estates. Soon your children need not travel far to get an education. That means, no more morning rush, less stress to get to school on time, and spend more time with your family.

Shuttle services will soon be made available for residents to go around the estate and the nearby town, for a minimal fee. A transport terminal within the estate will soon be operational, for added convenience of residents and guests. The development is also designed to have a commercial complex in the community so you need not leave to get your basic needs.

PRO-FRIENDS is one of the country's fastest growing real estate developers known for their property developments in Cavite and Iloilo. They are the developer of Bellefort Estates, Carmona Estates and Parc Regency Residences. For more information on PRO-FRIENDS' properties, please call (02)491-7700 or visit www.profriends.com.



Five good reasons to consider La Verti's Hi-rise

2. Premiere Units

3. Premium Advantage in Building Design

4. Premium 'Green Getaway'

5. Premium Views from the Top

Amaia Rises In Cubao